

HACKNEY FURNISHING COMPS' INSTALMENT SYSTEM.
CHEAPEST, BEST, AND MOST ECONOMICAL TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, MARE-STREET, HACKNEY.

GENERAL TRADES
NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED.
Taxes are paid up to ANY AMOUNT.
All Goods packed and delivered free in Town or Country.
We have a complete range of Furniture
whether in case of death the goods become
the property of the Proprietor and sell
any part from the Estate.

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The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

No. 1,009.—ONE PENNY. [Registered at the Post Office as a Newspaper.]

LONDON, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1901.

Publishing Office, WILFORD LANE, ARUNDEL STREET, ADVERTISING

STRAND, W.C.

SPECIAL SUNDAY EDITION.

WAR: LATEST.

PURSUIT OF BOTHA BY GEN. FRENCH.

RISING OF NATIVES.

Pretoria, Feb. 8.—On Thursday Louis Botha, with large commandos, was still retreating before the various British columns, says "The standard" special correspondent. He has now got before Amsterdam. The wind is making, apparently, for the veldt border, near Pietretief, where there is much broken ground. It is the intention of General French to push the pursuit to the utmost, the endeavour to prevent him breaking back. At Ross he took one disabling another. The pursuing force is mostly mounted, and will probably be followed by others. First numbers of cattle and sheep have already been captured. News received from the wife of one of a band of Northern refugees reached Pretoria today. A second batch has been ejected by the Boers, and the natives around Leydsdorp have risen and are advancing on Pietersburg. The families compulsorily left behind are much alarmed. Numbers of Germans in the low country are forced by Boers to go on commando, leaving the families unprotected. If the natives have risen, it is owing entirely to the exactions of the Boers.

BOERS TAKING TO BRIGANDAGE.

RAIN HELD UP NEAR HEIDELBERG.

Pretoria, Feb. 8.—The Wednesday train from Natal, carrying a large number of civilians, returning refugees, and stores, was attacked near Heidelberg by a force of 400 Boers.

The enemy lay in ambush and poured a heavy fire, wounding nine passengers and bringing the train to a standstill. The Boers, who showed they were little else than bandits, relieved the passengers of their money and belongings. From one they stole £23. A number of passengers took refuge in a culvert, were discovered by the Boers, who by many threats beat through them to the outside. This incident, with the theft of the third ambulance which had been sent to the relief of Halfay, the use of incendiary bullets, and the expulsion of defenceless women and children from the districts still in their possession, stamp the Boers as purely brigands. No measures taken to punish them can be too strong. Having broken the law of civilised warfare they have no claims to the treatment set forth in the rules—Central News.

PEACE RUMOURS.

EMPHATIC DENIAL BY MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

To rumours circulated on Friday to the effect that the Colonial Secretary is now possessed by a desire for peace, that he contemplated the recall of Sir Alfred Milner, and that he had recently had conferences at Highbury with Mr. John Morley and Sir William Harcourt, with a view to saving the Empire, Mr. Chamberlain said: "This is another piece of cynical fabrication.

DE LISLE'S MARCH.

Cape Town, Feb. 8.—Col. De Lisle's column arrived 12 miles south of Calitzdorp on Wednesday. No Boers were encountered on the march.—Reuter.

CHANGE IN COMMAND.

Kruger, Feb. 8.—Col. Grove succeeded Gen. Hart in command of the station. Col. Edwards, with a contingent of Gen. Baden-Powell's cavalry, will be stationed here.

LEGAL FABRICATION.

I have had no communication whatever, either verbal or written, with any member of the Opposition on the subject of the war. There has been no peace conference, round table, or anything else. It is an entire fabrication.

Certainly I have always realised that a peaceful settlement is desirable, and for peace we were always anxious, but it did not rest with us. But as far as any lack of confidence in him goes, I can assure you the Government still retains the most absolute confidence in him. That, I may point out, is shown very clearly by the fact that the Government recently conferred a G.C.B. upon him."

SIR EVELYN WOOD.

REMOVED OFFER TO GO TO THE FRONT.

It was reported in the service clubs yesterday that Lord Kitchener would be superseded by Sir Evelyn Wood.

The Exchange Telegraph Co. is, however, informed by Sir E. Wood, that the report that he is to take the command in South Africa is inaccurate.

The "Standard" publishes another

version of the rumour—namely, that

Sir Evelyn Wood has offered to place his services at the disposal of Lord Kitchener.

In this there is nothing

untrue, but it will be remembered

that the former, the railway

and telegraph collector and

the gas fitter further open. Then

the way was clear to self-defence, all this Mr. Strode denied. The jury

gave a verdict for plaintiff with one

of the damages.

FORECAST OF WEATHER.

Variable or north-eastly winds; cloudy or dull at first, then some clear at

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CIGARETTE PAPERS

By JOSEPH HATTON.

"In the Valley of the Shadow."

For a few days I have been wandering among the South Downs where they overlook the sea. The nation's greatest sorrow at the death of the Queen is an apparent in the remote villages of Sussex as it is in the health and pleasure resorts of Tunbridge Wells, Brighton, Hastings, and Eastbourne. I met a shepherd with his crook not far from Beachy Head, and he had a band of raps about his arm. He stopped and handed me a cigarette after dinner and smoked a numerous company of guests. On previous visits one smoked and chatted with a friend or a chance acquaintance, or had the privilege of a talk with the manager in his little room, all the time catching strains of the string band that is a pleasant accompaniment to coffee and cigarettes. But since the Queen's day there has been no music, and on this eve of the burial, guests and waiters alike spoke in subdued tones, and black was the only wear. In due course the half-masted flag will be hauled to the memory of the staff, and the hotel guests will chat in the hall over their coffee and listen to cheerful music; but they will never forget the Queen any more than they will cease to remember the near and dear ones of their own family who have passed through "the valley of the shadow" to a higher and happier world beyond, we hope.

"As If We Were a King."

A year ago I came upon a notable shepherd in the Sussex hills, the descendant of a race still largely represented in the Downs. He was a hardy old fellow, rejoicing in the possession of his own cottage. His sister was his housekeeper. His wife and children were lying in the churchyard, except those of his sons, who had carried their courage and thrift to the colonies. Stalwart, though white-headed, he was attired in gaunt to the knee, big feathered becketted jacket, and a hat not unlike the headgear of the attired soldiers of our African army. "When I was a boy," he said, "I was a good shepherd." "I am now a pauper now, and no rent to pay, and have what they call perquisites. Not my sons has done better. The former now-a-days can't afford to pay what men can get in the towns. What's your shepherd?" as I knew it in days gone by. "It was, same time I be happy as the day's long, and have got a tidy bit put by." And as he rose to his good afternoons leaning on his two staffs, with his shaking crook, his sceptre, it was not difficult in imagination to put upon his lips the following declaration:

"I am a shepherd of the flock."

"As if we were a king."

"We are a proud, a royal crew."

"We are a king crew."

As if I were a King crew.

owith a Knowing Wink.

There is a class of satire that is too subtle for general appreciation. It is subtle for a California who wrote a Boston journal demanding the death of Bret Harte, which would be the most fortunate happening in the annals of the year." So long as Bret Harte lived it was contended "California will continue wild and woolly. He is a blot on her evolution—a drag on her civilization. His genius is great; but he stops the sail of the California sailing ship. The Golden Gate could be in the Outcasts of Poker Flat." Furthermore, the persistent and perennial historian of life in the distant West was charged with having accentuated California's savagery, emphasized her aborigines, and made the Heathen Chinese romantic; and as he continued to walk in the same way California was riled to desperation. She threatened, indeed, to have his blood unless he straightway took in hand her new ambitions, her gorgeous hotels, her social status, and proceeded to London.

Such as John Bull. The Two Magpies, The Luck, Brown of Cal., and all the rest. "These have passed in their checks; let them die and hang them to them!" A year or two ago this was the message of California to Great Britain through the Hub of the Universe. It came to us as it seemed to me with a knowing wink; though it was quoted with indignant seriousness on this sober side of the Atlantic.

Bret Harte and Dickens.

Imagine a world without "The Luck of the Camp," "The Outcasts of Poker Flat," "Migies," and "The Heathen Chinese!" You might as well blot from the new century "The Christmas Carol," "David Copperfield," "Pickwick," Tiny Tim, Sam Weller, and Little Nell. I hate calling any author a second somebody else, but people have long since got into the habit of calling Bret Harte "the Dickens of America," some "a second Dickens." This, however, may have arisen naturally enough. The art of Dickens and that of Bret Harte, are equally in their appreciation of character, and their capacity to realize it in pen and ink. But Dickens is Dickens the First. There is no second Dickens. And Bret Harte is Bret Harte the First, and we want no second, nor are we ever likely to find one even if we desired it.

"Still Marping on My Daughter."

Readers of "Cigarette Papers" are well acquainted with Bret Harte, not alone through his works but they have come to know him, then, in the smoke of "The Peacock," round table, while popular magazine has familiarized them with pleasant details concerning his life and personality. England proved to have had him as a resident first as one of America's Consuls, and second as a private citizen of London. We have seen him, as I have said, in the after-dinner smoke of these papers taking his morning stroll, as George Eliot and Mrs. Lewis were wont to do, about the busy roads of St. John's. Of late years he has deserted the artistic locality for Kensington, and Hamilton Terrace in the West, hardly seems the same without his burlesque and genial presence. Since he left the colony, we have recruited Alfred Gilbert, R.A., in Maida Vale, close by (how the years pass), and Mr. Clement Shorter, the creator of "The Sphere," and plotter of many other enterprises to come. A correspondent reminds me, too, that Mr. Pendleton had a little room in Grosvenor, over large stone steps, at the top, which latter thoroughfare is a veritable avenue of original removals to make the few flats and chambers, and other

THE PEOPLE, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1901.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Questions referred to be answered the same week the office by TUESDAY morning. We do not give opinions on legal questions, and cannot advise you whether or not your answers will be accepted by a referee. Your name and address should be given, so that we may be able to forward your answer to you.

The Luck of Roaring Camp.

Mr. J. Edgar Pemberton has written a biography of Bret Harte, which has just been published by Greenings. An unauthorised volume was under weigh when Mr. Pemberton came to his friend's rescue: "I had been left the only alternative of taking my own life, in an autobiography, had not you, Sir, in a moment of Romeo exultation, proffered the point of your own honourable sword, so that it never been drawn in graphic action for me to run away?" And so we get the story told with a tact and reticence and an appreciation of the author's career and work that makes it very acceptable and entertaining reading. I have previously told you the history of "The Luck of Roaring Camp," which, however, Mr. Pemberton extends to its proper fulness, and with fascinating details. The article, you will remember, so shocked a young lady "proof-reader" that she reported it to the proprietor of the magazine. The scene where, after reverently consulting the canon, Kenneth said, "He wrangled with the finger, the d—d little thing," was to much for the pious lady, corrector of the "p—e," and the question of the propriety of publishing the story, after a consultation with friends of the publication, became serious that Bret Harte had simply to say at last that unless it appeared word for word as he had written it, he must resign his editorship. He regarded the question as one challenging his fitness to edit the magazine rather than the merits of the "personal" advertising column at the end.

CORRESPONDENCE COUPON.

POST OFFICE: The People, No. 1000.

This card to be cut and forwarded with any question.

LOST AND FOUND.

D. H. —To contain the following particulars:

Relationship to applicant. Signature and address of applicant (not necessary for over one at least). Name must come direct from the person concerned. Name of the person concerned.

Amount of reward.

Time when lost.

Place where lost.

Description of object.

Patent.

Information required.

Correspondence to be sent in name-same as name in order to avoid confusion.

LEGAL.

Information—Write to the Cyclists' Union, of Victoria-street, S.W., but you must pay now for what you have been paid.

Concierge.—1. Yes. 2. Yes, but with simple interest. 3. It may be statute barred.

Lawyer.—1. Yes, you cannot send your writing.

Moneylender.—Three years.

Donor.—The month you can from any date.

H. M.—There is no such thing.

Landlord.—Yes, that is so.

Lawyer.—Inches there are special circumstances your rates will be about £12, and the rate calculated accordingly.

Master.—The stamp is light for medicine not exceeding £1.

Master.—We fear not, but you had better make full inquiries as to the real facts.

Master.—1. You must not pay interest.

Master.—Three years.

Master.—They can order the premises to be closed.

Master.—We think the agreement is valid.

The employer can sue you for £200.

Tavern (J. E. K.).—Apply to Somerset House.

Willing.—If you are served with a summons explain the state of your case to the judge or magistrate who issued it.

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(See inside review.)

IN DEEP ABYSS.

A NOVEL BY

GEORGES OHNET.

Author of "The Immigrant," "Song

Fame," etc.

Translated by JAMES ROTHEWELL, B.A.

PART II.

CHAPTER II.

FRAGOMER INTERVIEWS THE MARSHAL.

"Pretty frequent, but almost always useless. For it to be possible for a convict to escape, a ship must pick him up. There was the escape of Menouz, Rodriguez with Oliver Fox, which has remained the type of a well-arranged flight. But to do good in such an attempt, a great deal of money must be spent, and one must have accomplished in the outside world. An escaped convict generally waits, for the bank, and even then has a bandit in a Cornish thicket after a certain time, he is re-apprehended by the natives or gives himself up to his own accord. His only chance is to obtain possession of a canoe and try to reach Australia. But then, he runs the risk of dying of hunger or being eaten by sharks."

"From which island do they escape most easily?"

"From Nou. The last to give us the slip, set off in the attendant's canoe after stripping him of his uniform and tying him up to a tree. But he was captured in the open sea, and brought back. He was for a former co-conspirator condemned for a criminal outrage. Oh! he is now enduring five years solitary confinement. No fear of his catching the natives to help him."

The secretary laughed complaisantly, but, seeing how impertinently his visitor remained, he checked himself.

"And when the escapes succeed, what do you do?"

"We take precautions, in the first place, so that the journals say nothing of the matter, and the minister may not be disgraced. Ah! sir, that's the case! That is the administration's innocent pre-occupation."

"Have you at present any complaints of exemplary conduct and destroying of favour, as you said just now?"

"Ah! I see you are making serious enquiries," said the secretary, looking at Christian with considerable solicitude.

"Yes. I am about to publish an article in the 'Century Magazine,' on my return to England, and I should like very detailed information."

The secretary took up a register, turned over the leaves, and said:

"We have, in the stores, a former potter who was sent here at the age of twenty years, for having ruined a whole town in the provinces. He readers us very important services. Again, in the hospital we have a doctor condemned to penal servitude for life for poisoning his mistress. Quite recently he acted in an admirable fashion during an epidemic of smallpox. But the devotions he displayed I do not know how he should have managed. As for myself, I should not dare to be attended by any other than this doctor, in case I fall ill. He has also the practice of the governor's family."

"How curious!" exclaimed Christian. "And how French in character!"

"Ah! sir!" continued the secretary. "One must not be preoccupied in the presence of danger, and I should prefer to be cured, under the care of a convict, than die under the treatment of an honest man."

"Certainly, and have you any others?"

"Yes. I may especially call to your attention the case of a young man of good family in penal servitude for life for the murder of his mistress. He has fallen into a most extraordinary mysticism, delirious the champion of his piety. If the governor set him at liberty, and the regulations would allow it, he would certainly turn priest. . . . They have been obliged to separate him from his compatriots, who insulted and ill-treated him continually, and would certainly have killed him in the end, under the pretext that he was a monotonous. In penitentiary language he shouted in one voice on and denounces his companion."

"Are you not horrified to see me?" he said, bitterly. "Look at my eyes, this number, henceforth my only name. You are embracing a convict, Tragomer! You know that I am an animal."

"My mother!" said Jacques, bewildered. "This is strange young man's name!"

"Tragomer was his name, but now he is known by the number 8317."

Tragomer quivered with emotion.

His face turned pale, and he felt a dull pain at the heart. Mastering himself, he asked, with apparently perfect self-control:

"Would it be possible for me to see the notary, the doctor, and this apostle?"

"If you wish."

"I imagine it might be of service to me."

"Then I will write you out a general."

"I thank you for your kindness."

His functionary wrote a few words on a sheet of paper, and said:

"I am giving the order to have placed at your disposal the cutter belonging to the Administrator. That will satisfy all formalities for you. The coxswain will act as guide."

"All right."

"Hello! Past eleven o'clock! Have you had any lunch?"

"No. I took off a light breakfast this morning. If you will permit a traveller, towards whom you have been so unpleasant, especially as I am alone in this land of yours, to go to you for lunch with him, it would be an additional mark of your hospitality—French in its nature—to give him."

"Really, it is myself who ought to do you honour of the place."

"I should be displeased if you did not accept," said Christian with a smile.

"Very well, I accept."

Offspring on his cravat, and buttoning his waistcoat, he took up his coat and left the office, followed by Christian.

About three o'clock on the same day the cutter, driven through the water by six pairs of oars vigorously rowed by many gallant slaves, landed on the Island of Nou, and Christian, preceded by the coxswain, made his way towards the Penitentiary. There was a building near the wall surrounding the convicts' camp. Over the door were inscribed in red and black letters the words: "Dilectory Prison." It was the tribunal before which unruly convicts were summoned to answer for their

foolish pranks. A kind of stage and a porch filled the room, the walls of which were white-washed.

"Will you take a seat for a few minutes, sir. I will go and bring No. 8317 to you. Smack, if you wish, for the air here is not very pleasant to breathe."

Tragomer bowed, but made no reply, leaning against the stage from which the director, aided by his assessors, dealt out punishments to those unfortunate beings who already seemed as though they had reached the very utmost limit to human suffering. His heart was wrung by an unutterable anguish. He had accomplished the object he had in view, for the doors of the bagnes were opened to him. Another moment, and he was to find himself in the presence of one who had come to scold, from so far, and who was now living in the grip of resigned despair.

He was acquainted with his moral condition, that an unhappy man should be given up to torture, when he had done nothing to deserve such treatment, how comes it that he should be impaled, disengaged, and bound in chains, if there is not in his destiny something which he towards me, I cannot hope to be liberated till years and years have passed. Besides, I should never be able to return to France; my mother and sister would be obliged to come here. The reason is that they have recognized how impossible it was. They would never do it now. We shall be without ever seeing one another again. That is what is breaking my heart, Christian. I can put up with my wrists being broken, but not with my heart."

"He was a good man, I am sure," said Christian.

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how I was innocent. During my advocacy's remarkable plaudits, he said that the assessments he advanced, though officially presented for his use, were a very talented man—would carry conviction with them, and I was by means astounded. And I was innocent! How comes it that Christian, that such iniquity can exist, that an unhappy man should be given up to torture, when he has done nothing to deserve such treatment?

"Will you take a seat for a few minutes, sir. I will go and bring No. 8317 to you. Smack, if you wish, for the air here is not very pleasant to breathe."

Tragomer bowed, but made no reply, leaning against the stage from which the director, aided by his assessors, dealt out punishments to those unfortunate beings who already seemed as though they had reached the very utmost limit to human suffering. His heart was wrung by an unutterable anguish. He had accomplished the object he had in view, for the doors of the bagnes were opened to him. Another moment, and he was to find himself in the presence of one who had come to scold, from so far, and who was now living in the grip of resigned despair.

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OUR OMNIBUS.

THE CONDUCTOR.

It is some months since "The People," called attention to the "polite and witty" of the "Manchester Guardian." Content is good for ears alone, but the politician who wrote a journal, which has been built up by honest and loyal efforts, to undermine the honour and the safety of his country should be taken by the throat. One could almost forgive the "Manchester Guardian" if it made anything like a fair fight for its wretched cause, a result of the Boers, and the whitewashing of Kruger, Nienaber, and company—but the first name of the nation, outrages the first conditions of controversy and misapplies "the liberty of the subject" to a policy little short of treason.

Apart from "The People," among the great London papers, it has been left to the "Telegraph" to give the "Guardian" the direct in response to a series of incidents touching the attitude of the late Queen, the German Emperor, and the Boer War. The London correspondent of our Manchester compatriot has been feeding the receptive mind of his editor with full news of the inventive genius of his himself. The purpose of the "Guardian" is to encourage the Boers to believe that in her last hours the Queen gave utterance to opinions favourable to a peace which it is known she would have preferred, that the Kruger's stay in England was more or less in the interests of the abolished Boers, and that the majority of the Cubans are hostile to Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Alfred Mond. Nothing could be more untrue than these suggestions, nothing more calculated to prolong the war, which is the unpatriotic and mischievous purpose of the small but active party so energetically represented by the "Manchester Guardian."

The Boer quarters continue to be flooded with anti-English pamphlets and other forms of treasonable literature calculated to stimulate the most ambitious hopes of the enemy. Whatever may be the effect of its pro-Boer editorials and reports in the North of England one may be sure, the "Guardian" has a large circulation in the shifting camps of Boer, De Wet, and Steyn. This abuse of British liberty is not less harmful to the Boer than the English. How far it serves to bring Boer and invader the peace causes one may leave to the conscience of the conductors of the "Guardian." That it can only stimulate the righteous purpose of the Imperial authorities to plant the flag firmly once for all in South Africa, is evident to all, except to staff-necked racists at home; for even at the cost of war thousands of Boers are anxious to accept the British conditions of surrender, and prominent leaders are urging the colonies to lay down their arms.

Sure the "Daily Telegraph," in its editorial exposure of the "Manchester Guardian," "The motives of those who hold out these idle hopes to the Boers we cannot scrutinise; the results of their action are only too obvious. All that has been done is to nail the base coin to the counterfeiter as it is put into circulation." That is true, this was not done at the first. We allowed Louis and his crew of liars and libellers to pervade the Continent of Europe with their slanders of British citizens and British troops without taking the smallest action to expose counterfeits of truth against their brutal calumnies. In our very wildest we have permitted the enemy to carry on their treasonable campaign. We are accustomed to the abuse of foreign enemies, and we allow our own political maniacs to have their say. It blows off the steam of an ill-gained opinion, say the philosphers. It is nevertheless a mistake to permit ignorance, self-seeking, and a personal desire to poison the whole atmosphere of opposition and create a deadly disease of indignation and treachery. The mere sleek can be led to his mean resources, but the fat, coin of the cunning and dangerous lies should be nailed to the counter of truth, as the "Telegraph" has this week nailed the Northern swine's base metal, coined by his London correspondent, and put into circulation through the medium of a powerful newspaper, whose defection is one of the most lamentable chapters in the history of journalism.

THE ACTOR.

The petitioner in the recent theatrical divorce case was, of course, readily identified as a young actor who had made of late years considerable success in the London stage, to which he was introduced originally as a member of a country touring company.

The respondent, who brought a counter-charge and won her case, will be remembered by regular West-end players as being, when they first saw her, a young and pretty girl, who never got beyond small parts.

After her marriage she retired from the boards, having appeared only in a single theatre, not a hundred yards from Piccadilly Circus.

The audience at Her Majesty's and the St. James's on Tuesday and Wednesday evening were brilliant in the sense that they comprised a large number of well-known people. Fairly faces were everywhere to be seen. Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft were at both functions. At Her Majesty's were Miss Brunsvile and Miss Julie Opp, both fresh from rehearsals at the St. James's. At the King's, house Mrs. Tietz and Miss Wimard Terry were in evidence in the stalls, where Miss Kate Terry also found a place.

The truth is, the personnel of theatrical first nights is usually very much the same throughout the year round.

In one respect both Her Majesty's and the St. James's audiences had an aspect which would be novel to all but the most vulnerable of actors, and that was the universality of black attire.

Without exception, everybody wore mourning. If much or any jewellery was worn I did not notice it.

Of course, the heavy gowns were of all kinds of material and quality, but they were dead black all the same. Indeed for once in a way, the ladies with their white shirt fronts were actually welcome as breaking some of the monotony of the dreary.

It is clear that, for some time past, these spiders, I am informed, were captured near Hastings, where a colony seems to have existed since it was first discovered there in 1866. Probably the species is distributed about other parts of England, but only enough of it appears to have been found only in one other place—viz., in Suffolk, a year or two ago. The cases, when the spiders' whereabouts are known, are not very difficult to find, as usually round the openings of their webs are found little bits of dried root or insect remains, unable to eat and reject from the holes, such as the elixir of beetles and the dried skins of flies, &c. Some species of burrowing spiders make a door of earth to their holes, which works up

THE PEOPLE, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1907

to come. West End playing will have its gloomy side.

The forthcoming play at the Prince of Wales's is announced as "Peg Woffington," from which it may fairly be gathered that it is not identical with the first version of Roode and Taylor's "Masks and Faces," which is the only one out of copyright. There is, I suppose, no reason why a playwright should not go to Roode's book, had their first sitting. The Commissioners, we are told, having considered their course of procedure, adjourned. On the same day a meeting of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture was held, at which a communication from Lord Salisbury was read, stating that "Until the Commission had reported it was inadvisable to express an opinion as to the steps to be taken regarding the pure beer question, and no good purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation on the subject."

An interesting night in April will be that of the opening of the new Imperial Theatre, which is contiguous to the Royal Aquarium, but not of it.

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All players will be sorry to hear of the serious illness of Miss Netherton. That lady made a mistake when she introduced her conception of Carmen to London audiences, but otherwise was appreciated simply and solely for the sake of blinding the critics on the question, and as the Commission is not likely to issue any report for the next two years (Mr. Chaplin says it may be five years before they report) the Government "winks the other eye," because it knows full well that even the poisoning of hundreds of working-men by putting arsenic in their beer will be forgotten long before then.

I suppose I, being a Conservative working man, shall be told that I ought not to talk in this. But if the Radical party were in power I should say it, and so I say it now. There is no worse form of humbugging the people than by appointing a Royal Commission of inquiry. Both parties knew it, and yet both parties do it.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

A most interesting exhibit was laid on the table of the Zoological Society's meeting at Hanover-square on Tuesday last, in the shape of a corn-like substance from the snout of whale. Similar calcifications have been noticed in other specimens of whales, but their presence has not been satisfactorily accounted for. Various conjectures have been put forward by naturalists, but the most feasible appears to be that the eruption is due to the attacks of barnacles which bore into the whale's flesh, and that the skin becomes callous and hardened through the animals rubbing their noses against rocks or other obstacles in their efforts to get rid of the parasites, or to allay the irritation caused by them. The "bonnet," as this corn-like growth is called, is of considerable size, and the specimen exhibited measured about 18 in. in depth, 10 in. in length, and 7 in. in width.

One curious point in connection with this exhibition, mentioned in the discussion upon it, was that the barnacles should attack the whale away in the same place, but this was thought not to be very remarkable, in view of the fact that many animals have particular ways of attacking their prey, and parasites select certain places wherein to take up their abode in the various hosts. For instance, a ferret will always go for a rabbit's eyes when at bay, and a wasp, when catching a rabbit in pursuit, will almost invariably fix on the back of the neck. The attraction of the barnacles to the whale's snout is considerably less than the average for the seven years previous, which was over eleven million working-days. I always think that the most unfortunate working men and women in Great Britain, as far as strikes, lock-outs, and stoppages of all sorts are concerned, are the tipplers workers of South Wales.

I hope my older readers will pardon me for inflicting the repetition of a note upon them, but to meet the wishes of several of my many new friends, who like to insert here a few hints on the way in which to treat the ordinary tortoise, which seems to catch a pat, and is kept by so many of my correspondents, who are constantly writing for advice. In the first place, I may point out that the tortoise is essentially a vegetable feeder, and that the bread and milk fed to it is usually subjected to quite unsuitable to it, and if it eats at all, it is only through sheer necessity. If my readers who keep tortoises have vegetable gardens, they cannot do better than let the creatures roam at will in them. They will see to their own wants throughout the year, feeding themselves in the warm weather and burrowing themselves in the ground in the winter. If the animals are kept in a confined place, where there is no vegetable growth, they should be given turnips, cabbages, and carrots in the summer, and, when they are ready to hibernate, they should be put in a box of hay or straw, or wrapped in flannel and put away in a warm place till the spring.

The additions to the Zoological Society's gardens during the week ending Feb. 3 include three blue-fronted amazons, a Siske's monkey, and a number of burrowing spiders.

The burrowing spiders mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, though insignificant as regards size when compared with most of the other animals that are received at the Zoo, are by no means less interesting. In fact, if their habits are carefully studied, they will be found to be testing and far more intelligent than many of their more lonly-looking creatures. These spiders burrow in the ground, and line the sides of the hole thus made with silken webs. These burrows serve both as a home and a trap for prey. Around the mouth of the hole for several inches are thrown out webs, and so on as an approaching insect touches these webs either the sound of vibration is conveyed to the hidden spider, who at once dart out and secures it.

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and down on a hinge constructed of web, and when this door is shut the hole is completely hidden from view and almost impossible to find.

WILL WORKMAN.

Last Tuesday the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the exceptional sickness and death caused by poison in beer, and other articles of food, held their first sitting. The Commissioners, we are told, having considered their course of procedure, adjourned. On the same day a meeting of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture was held, at which a communication from Lord Salisbury was read, stating that "Until the Commission had reported it was inadvisable to express an opinion as to the steps to be taken regarding the pure beer question, and no good purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation on the subject."

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JACK ALLROUND.**QUEEN WILHELMINA MARRIED.****ACTION FOR LIBEL AGAINST A PRIEST.****VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.****FOOTBALL.****RUGBY.****WOOLF BROS., OF THE BARBICAN.**

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old to us are a dozen and a half. There is such a demand for garment colours that a quantity of cheap silks in black and mauve are supplied ready-made, but the texture and cut which give no real effect are cut out which gives no real effect. A well-made bodice of grey or white will cost three guineas.

out of the weddings this spring we will be in the Empire style, and we will predominate for bridegrooms' frocks. I have seen some elegant boudoirs of appliquéd white lace, muslin, and silver embroidery which were destined to grace bridegroom's dresses of pale mauve crepe. The turbaned gowns have chiffon were trimmed with velvet violet, and there was nothing little about them. They were intended to take the place of the usual bouquet. The only ones worn were of pearl, and bridegroom's presents to the outside were exquisite made in pearl and silver, which, by attaching the muf, went over the neck, from which circle bounded a pearl heart.

PATTERN ORDER FORM.

Send orders to "People" Office, and name.

Number month.

Description.

Size.

Material.

Length.

Breadth.

Width.

Waist.

THE THEATRES.

HER MAJESTY'S.

As time advances Mr. Tree more and more proves himself by his high dramatic endeavour and broad artistic accomplishment a capable and worthy director. The beautiful theatre he directed to be built, and for which all London owes him a debt of gratitude. His varied productions in the dual capacity of actor-manager have never failed to advance the best interests of the English stage, whether in respect of Shakespearian revivals or the bringing out, and introduction to the stage, of his memorable series of new and scholarly modern plays. In his latest venture, the presentation of "Twelfth Night," seen at the opening of Her Majesty's on Tuesday, Mr. Tree goes as far as possible, by sound acting and picturesque scenic effect, in the consistency to a play which, however, is beautiful in separate isolated scenes, in incongruous in its elements, rendering it the most difficult of Shakespear's comedies in presentation. In "As You Like It" and "Much Ado About Nothing," where Rosalind and Orlando and Beatrice and Benedick are concerned, the story in each instance marches even along, told with simple unity of motive and purpose, but in "Twelfth Night" there is the romantic love of Viola, the Countess, and Ursino, purely fanciful and Italian in its poetic essence and conduct, clashing with the downright matter of fact English drollery, through the humours of Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Maria. The joviality of these merry roisterers, with their undignified British names in playing their sturdy practical joke upon Malvolio, has nothing in common with the fantastic disguises and dreamy romance of the loves of theians. It is, therefore, greatly to the credit of Mr. Tree that he has so worked out the opposing parts as to bring them together, giving them through the subtle art of his presentation the semblance of an artistic whole.

Coming to the personations, Mr. Tree's Malvolio, alike in make-up, movement, facial play and vocal utterance, is thoroughly Shakespearian, as an embodiment of the judicious overweening conceit of the inflated steward. His fooling always characteristic, was tried in broad fun, rendered the more gay by the new and quite legitimate "butches" of the many tricks. And then Mr. Lione, Belch, stands out by his diverting bibulous folly, intensified through this sterling comedian's own personal humour as Sir Toby Belch; by the side of whom the Sir Andrew Aguecheek showed weak. Mr. Courteau Pounds quizzingly expressed the liveliness of the clown parts, and sang the songs sweetly; but it may be questioned whether the music selected is not too plaintive for the sententious ironical character of the jester; excepting, of course, the familiar Nenny, which goes down to the last note, and which is enjoyed by the members. As Maria Miss Zelle Tilbury was well in the picture by her bright and natural acting instinct as it was with genuine heartiness, and a sense of enjoyment in the innocent impish mischief of her trick played upon Malvolio.

Of the serious personages, Miss Lily Brayton, by her sweet musical voice and girlish charm of presence, won all hearts as Viola, securing the most pronounced success of the night. Miss Maid Jeffries was not seen to advantage as the Countess, for whose poetic utterances her elevation was faulty. As Orsino Mr. Robert Tabor, though speaking his lines quite audibly, was too severe in facial expression, and too sententious in speech for a faithful portrayal of the languorous lovesick Prince. Antonio was played with much vigour by Mr. F. White, and Mr. Quartermaine made a fairly good double to Viola as Sebastian.

A beautiful picture as the modern stage has given was seen in Mr. H. G. Green's exquisite scene of the "Comptons' residence, which, in its high laurel and grey steps and terraces, vividly reminds the visitor to Florence of the famous Boboli Gardens.

The presentation of the comedy evidently gave pleasure to the audience who, at curtain fall, greeted the players, and notably their leader, with cordial congratulatory plaudits, acknowledged in words fit and few by Mr. Tree.

ST. JAMES'S.

Mr. George Alexander responded his theatre on Wednesday, with Mr. Maddox Chambers' new play, "The Awakening," the production of which was postponed from the eve of the great national bereavement. Unlike the crisp pieces of fresh mintage by which the young Australian dramatist first introduced himself to home playgoers at the same theatre, his latest work excites no surprises by novelty either of incident or characterisation, but owes its unqualified success it undoubtedly won to the skillful manipulation of familiar scenes and personages throughout the dramatic direction, which is a salient feature of Mr. Chambers.

He is an excellent designer, many novelties being shown in existing exhibits as a mark of his artistic attainments. His latest effort, "Private Science," Besse Bassett, T. E. Duniway, the Gotham Quartette (extremely clever girls), Mame Lloyd, and Fred Russell with his old friend "Custer Joe."

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

In London 8,419 births and 1,638 deaths were registered last week. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 611, and the deaths 619 below the average.

The annual death-rate per 1,000 from all causes further fell last week to 18.

The deaths included 23 from measles, 24 from diphtheria, 44 from whooping-cough, 13 from enteric fever, 11 from diarrhoea and dysentery.

Different forms of violence caused 64 deaths, concerning all but one of which 61 cases were held.

Of these 64 deaths, two were cases of suicide, while the remaining 62 were attributed to accident or negligence.

Six of these were referred to vehicles in the streets, 10 to burns and scalds, and 15 of infants under one year of age to suffocation in bed.

In Greater London 2,613 births and 1,912 deaths were registered, corresponding to annual rates of 21.6 and 17.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The deaths registered last week in London and 33 other great towns corresponded to an annual rate of 18.4 per 1,000 of the aggregate population of the towns, which is estimated at 11,729,000 persons in the middle of last year.

Storm clouds move 20 miles an hour. Coloured glass windows were used in 800 houses.

A hand (home) measure to four inches.

A rifle ball moves at the rate of 1,000 miles an hour.

The expenses of the Royal Household are £175,000 a year.

Lavender water was always her Majesty's favourite perfume.

William Fox was fined £5 at Merthyr for selling beer containing arsenic.

Mr. John Nicholls, one of the oldest members of the Welsh Hunt, died suddenly at Llanfihangel on Sunday.

The first photographs were produced in England in 1802, and perfected in 1841.

Japanese military authorities are experimenting with war balloons.

Mr. Carnegie's advice to young men: "If you fall in love, do so with a woman 20 or 30 years your senior."

Budapest's population has increased in 10 years from 506,000 to 750,000. The last census was taken in January.

The entire time spent by her Majesty in Scotland since 1868 totals 18 years.

A Maid of Honour always received a dowry of £1,000 from the Queen as the Conquest, until the Duke of York, have married English women.

A lad named MacLure, aged nine, has died in Belfast from burns accidentally caused while warming himself before the fire.

Lout-ya, Ivanov, Atherton attendant to the Governor-General of Turkestan, has been appointed Russian Governor-General of Turkestan.

Burglars broke into a pawnbroker's and jeweller's shop at Gloucester, and for the Queen's funeral, and took away gold and diamonds value £600.

The Rev. F. Marrs, of Nottingham, has been conducting in Richmond Theatre a crusade against evil. Curiously enough, the play which occupied the boards of the theatre was "A Message from Mys."

Some of a speculative turn of mind last week issued the Kaiser's life at Lloyd's. A premium of one per cent was charged, which is a test to the security of monarchs on May 1st.

The Republicans in the U.S. Congress have decided to abandon the Ship Subsidy Bill. They admit that it cannot pass this session, owing to the intention of the Opposition to obstruct the measure.

Official intelligence from Addis-Abeba confirms the news of the death of the King of Goggiom, on Jan. 11. He has been succeeded by his son, Beqabat, who is at present at the court of the Emperor Menelik.

A new omnibus service between Richmond and Putney has begun this week. The route is Chelverton-road, Upper Richmond-road, Barnes, Shooters Hill, and Richmond. The fare for the journey is threepence, with intermediate penny fares.

Mrs. Hobhouse, who went out to Africa on behalf of the women workers of the South African Conciliation Committee to help the distressed Boer women and children, has been granted permission by Sir A. Milner to go up to the front with food and clothes.

The Leader of the House of Commons acted as the Queen's special reporter, and sent her each night a summary of the doings. This letter was written on his knee as he sat on the Treasury Bench, in full view of the House.

The Queen's entry in the Duchess of Fife's book of "Likes and Dislikes" runs thus: "God has been so good to me and given me so much to make me happy during life, that now, in my old age, I will not confess that I have any dislikes."

More than 56 years have passed since the Rev. L. C. H. Irby, son of the third Lord Boston and great uncle of the present peer, became rector of Whiston, in Northamptonshire. Owing to advancing years—he is now 78—he has felt obliged to resign.

The accident which happened at the proclamation of the King at Bury St. Edmunds has terminated fatally. Thomas Lee, an official of the Town Council, had both eyes blown out by the explosion of a gun fired in honour of the occasion, and blood-poisoning supervening he succumbed.

The jury of the Brabant Assize Court brought in a verdict of not guilty in the case of a hawk prosector by the Government for having sold a pamphlet considered to be inciting to the late Queen Victoria. This is the pamphlet which has been sold in Paris.

An action for libel, arising out of a pigeon-flying match, was heard at Manchester. A fancier, Mr. Percy, accused the prince of the Tipperary Association of having won a cross-grade instead of tipplers, as stipulated by agreement. Percy said he had no money, but he had a solicitor acting for him. "Then," replied Justice Morgan, "I understand how it is you

have no money." Percy apologised and was allowed to leave the court.

The amended Book of Common Prayer is now on sale.

Of 18 Princes of Wales only 11 have ascended the Throne.

The German Post Office is adopting the American system of letter-bases.

The Russian cavalry regiments are to be completely reorganized.

President Louis de la Corderie of the Legion of Honour and King Victor Emmanuel.

Justice Lawrence, for the usual reason, was presented with a pair of white gloves at the Bucks Winter Assizes.

The Parisian equivalent to the Egyptian Hall has been partly destroyed by fire. The Hoodia races were saved.

The new direct cable route between Great Britain and South Africa was completed this week.

It is estimated that picking packets supports over 100,000 of London's population.

New York City consumes 5,200,000 tons of coal a year, of which 4,500,000 tons are natural gas.

The highest railway bridge in the United States is the Kinnaird.

Ellen wife of Robert Bruce, was an O'Connor. The King therefore has Royal Irish blood in his veins.

Human skeletons over 50 ft. long have recently been unearthed in Barbados.

Some £10,000 has been subscribed in Switzerland for the assistance of Belgian refugees.

The Belgian Chamber has adopted a law prohibiting gambling in public places or premises open to the public.

A revolt has taken place in the Lower Kasai country, Congo Free State.

Miss Marie Stewart, of London, has been appointed a sanitary inspector for Belgium.

An automobile has been used in Belgium to convey an infant and his attendants to the christening.

The Rev. G. Drinkwater Bourne died suddenly. He was No. 8 in the Oxford crew in 1843 which defeated Cambridge.

On 17 miles of its line, the St. Gotthard Rly. has 224 large bridges and 1,000 artificial structures. The line cost £60,000 a mile.

The £3 million quarters of wheat which Great Britain buys from abroad is equal to the entire extra amount needed by all other European nations.

The difference between the tallest and shortest races in the world is 1 ft. 6 in., and the average height is 5 ft. 3 in.

Two Persian carpets, presented by the Infante Don Sanchez to the Royal Coventry of St. Antonio in 1500, have been sold for £1,700, in Lisbon.

There are 200,000 different species of insects in the earth; some of these are small that 4,000 of them are equal to a grain of sand.

The British Army has had 16 Commanders-in-Chief in the last two centuries. Five of them have been Marshals.

A new map of India, 16 miles to the inch, is about to be begun by the Indian Survey Department. It will cover 106 sheets.

Out of 23,422 vessels in the world, Great Britain owns 10,833; the United States comes next, with 8,135 vessels; Germany third, with 7,170.

In Sweden and Norway it is a crime to make any profit on the sale of liquor; it must be dispensed at cost price.

All dishes at the Royal table are marked with the name of the cook, whom it originated with.

During Her Majesty's reign there have been seven Royal tours abroad, the first being that of the Prince of Wales (now king) to Canada in 1860.

Admiral Richelieu, a Dane by birth, but a resident of Siam for 27 years, and the creator of its navy, is returning to Denmark.

A motor-car v. express train is the latest form of sport in Italy. Over a 30 miles course from Rome the motor won.

Mr. Valentine Woodhouse, father of the English Bar, has died at Albury, aged 84. He was called to the Inner Temple in 1822.

The area of Europe and Australia together almost exactly equals that of South America, North America, and Australia combined would almost cover Africa.

A diamond, worth £10 millions sterling, is the richest man in America; Mr. Andrew Carnegie comes next, with 41 millions; Mr. W. W. Astor, third, with 24 millions.

The Republicans in the U.S. Congress

have decided to abandon the Ship Subsidy Bill. They admit that it

cannot pass this session, owing to the intention of the Opposition to obstruct the measure.

Official intelligence from Addis-

Abeba confirms the news of the death of the King of Goggiom, on Jan. 11. He has been succeeded by his son, Beqabat, who is at present at the court of the Emperor Menelik.

A new omnibus service between Richmond and Putney has begun this week. The route is Chelverton-road, Upper Richmond-road, Barnes, Shooters Hill, and Richmond. The fare for the journey is threepence, with intermediate penny fares.

Mrs. Hobhouse, who went out to Africa on behalf of the women workers of the South African Conciliation Committee to help the distressed Boer women and children, has been granted permission by Sir A. Milner to go up to the front with food and clothes.

The Leader of the House of Commons

acted as the Queen's special reporter,

and sent her each night a summary

of the doings. This letter was

written on his knee as he sat on the Treasury Bench, in full view of the House.

The Queen's entry in the Duchess of Fife's book of "Likes and Dislikes"

runs thus: "God has been so good to me and given me so much to make

me happy during life, that now, in

my old age, I will not confess that I have any dislikes."

More than 56 years have passed since the Rev. L. C. H. Irby, son of the third Lord Boston and great uncle of the present peer, became rector of Whiston, in Northamptonshire. Owing to advancing years—he is now 78—he has felt obliged to resign.

The accident which happened at the proclamation of the King at Bury St. Edmunds has terminated fatally. Thomas Lee, an official of the Town Council,

had both eyes blown out by the explosion of a gun fired in honour of the

occasion, and blood-poisoning supervening he succumbed.

The jury of the Brabant Assize

Court brought in a verdict of not

guilty in the case of a hawk prosector

by the Government for having

sold a pamphlet considered to be inciting

to the late Queen Victoria. This is the pamphlet which has been sold in Paris.

An action for libel, arising out of a pigeon-flying match, was heard at

Manchester. A fancier, Mr. Percy,

accused the prince of the Tipperary

Association of having won a cross-

grade instead of tipplers, as stipulated

by agreement. Percy said he had no

money, but he had a solicitor acting

for him. "Then," replied Justice

Morgan, "I understand how it is you

THE TRAIN MURDER.

ACCUSED AGAIN IN COURT.

A LOVE-LETTER FROM PRISONER.

Impression and anxiety are leaving their marks in an unmistakable manner on George Henry Parker, or "Hill," who is charged with the murder of William Pearson and the attempted murder of Mrs. Rhodes.

The total length of the military tunnels in the Rock of Gibraltar is 60.

The reconstructed Adelphi Theatre will not open with "The Wizard of the Town" until May 1.

It is estimated that picking packets

supports 100,000 of London's population.

New York City consumes 5,200,000 tons of coal a year, of which 4,500,000 tons are natural gas.

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